



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0023

SUSAN A. GENDRON
COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT #IV.A.

To: Members of the State Board of Education

From: Susan A. Gendron, Commissioner*

Date: April 9, 2008

Subject: Major Capital School Construction Program; *Concept Approval Consideration*;
Brunswick School Department, Grade 3-5 Elementary School Construction Project.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The Brunswick (Hawthorne School) project was rated number 13 on the 2004-2005 Approved Projects List. The project will house grades 3-5 and will replace the Hawthorne School and the Longfellow School.

A complete New vs. Renovation Study is on file with the Department of Education which supports the Department's recommendation to build new rather than renovate an existing school.

All appropriate State and local agencies have been contacted; and where necessary, documented approvals are on file. The building has been designed to High Performance standards.

The Brunswick project has been very time consuming. With the closure of the Brunswick Naval Air Station, student projected enrollments were difficult to predict and extensive research went into the effort.

A site for the new school was also problematic. Finding a site that was in town and was free of wet lands with appropriate soils took some time. A site that housed the old high school on one end and an abandoned armory on the other end was selected. The school has been designed to take advantage of the narrow site while retaining the school's play field. The project will also include both play fields and the replacement of tennis courts off site.

This Concept Approval is being requested pursuant to M.R.S.A. Title 20-A, Section 15905(1).

Brunswick School Department is requesting Concept Approval for a Grade 3-5 elementary school qualifying under State statute and State Board of Education Rule, Chapter 61, Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects.

Superintendent David R. Wallace has provided the following project description statement:

The hopes, dreams, and hard work of many people throughout the Brunswick community will be realized by the construction of this state of the art elementary school. The closing of the Hawthorne and Longfellow Schools who have served our children with educational excellence for many decades will now give way to a new, exciting, innovative, and technologically advanced design. The new grade 3 to 5 facility will end the many years of concerns by townspeople about equity among our four elementary schools and become a unifying community hub for educational and community based activities.

Exhibit #IV.A.
Concept Approval Consideration
Brunswick School Department
Grade 3-5 Elementary School Construction Project
Date: April 9, 2008
Page -2-

This new arrangement of having two K-2 elementary schools and a new intermediate school will both provide adequate program space coupled with operating efficiencies. The locating of the new elementary school in town and within walking distance of many families will encourage children to become more physically active by walking or biking to their neighborhood school. This will be a school that the entire community will share and should be proud to support for many years to come.

Project Information

Project: Elementary School
Superintendent: David R. Wallace
Principal: vacant
Architect: Lyndon Keck, Portland Design Team
School(s) to be closed: Hawthorne School and Longfellow School

Project Budget Information

Total Project Cost: \$28,560,000
Local Only (no State participation): \$3,379,200
Approved for State/Local Debt Service Subsidy: \$24,939,360
Anticipated Maine High Performance Schools Energy Grant: \$167,440
Local Only Funds Raised: \$74,000

CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

At its meeting on March 31, 2008, the Construction Committee gained consensus to recommend that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval to the Brunswick School Department for new grade 3-5 elementary construction project located in Brunswick, Maine.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

The Commissioner recommends that the State Board of Education grant Concept Approval to Brunswick School Department for a grade 3-5 elementary school in Brunswick, Maine, as a Major Capital School Construction Project and approve the concept budget as presented.**

*Prepared by the School Facilities Services Team

**This approval constitutes Concept Approval. Final Funding Approval may be subject to adjustment under Section 10, Subsection 1, of the State Board of Education Rules for School Construction Projects, which states:

“Final Funding Approval by the Commissioner establishes the Project Budget and takes place after construction bids have been received. At that time, the Commissioner may reduce the budget to finance the project, thus providing additional funds for other projects.”